



# ***INSIGHTS***

108<sup>th</sup> Congress

July 7, 2003

*Also available on the FEMP Home Page at  
[www.eere.energy.gov/femp/resources/insights.html](http://www.eere.energy.gov/femp/resources/insights.html).*

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**INSIGHTS** is prepared expressly for the Department of Energy's Office of Federal Energy Management Programs (FEMP). The purpose of **INSIGHTS** is to provide FEMP management staff with timely information on legislative activities relevant to the program. **INSIGHTS** is prepared for FEMP by Energetics, Incorporated, (202) 479-2748.

***DON'T FORGET!***

**Energy 2003 is August 17 - 20 in Lake Buena Vista, Florida! Go to the Energy 2003 web page at [www.energy2003.ee.doe.gov](http://www.energy2003.ee.doe.gov) to register.**

## **I. WEEKLY SUMMARY**

### **CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE**

#### **HOUSE**

This week, the House will conduct two hearings of interest:

- Subcommittee on Energy (Committee on Science) hearing to examine the Department of Energy's process for competing laboratory contracts
- Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources (Committee on Resources) hearing to examine access of resources on Federal lands

#### **SENATE**

This week, the Senate will be busy marking up FY 2004 appropriations bills and holding hearings on issues of interest:

- Subcommittee in Interior and full committee mark ups on FY 2004 Appropriations for Interior and Related Agencies (includes Department of Energy's energy efficiency programs)
- Subcommittee in Defense and full committee mark ups on FY 2004 Appropriations for the Department of Defense (includes funding for energy efficiency in DOD facilities)
- Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing on status of National Park Service maintenance and backlog program
- Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing on natural gas prices

### **CONFERENCE COMMITTEES/VOTES**

*No committee meeting negotiations or votes of interest have been scheduled.*

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## II. COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

### HOUSE

#### Hearings

***Federal Property*** On June 5, Stephen Perry, Administrator of the General Service Administration (GSA) testified before the Committee on Government Reform. In his remarks, Mr. Perry stated that GSA remains committed to working with Congress to secure passage of pending legislation affecting Federal property. In his remarks, Administrator Perry said the proposed legislation would:

...more accurately reflect the current needs of the Government and emerging practices of the commercial marketplace. Such legislation would also help with other challenges, such as the advancing age of Federal buildings, the increasing need to secure these facilities against terrorism, and striving to make Government structures healthy and environmentally sound for employees...Much of the Government's vast and diverse portfolio reflects an infrastructure that is based on business models and technology of the 1950's. GSA, which has only about 10 percent of the Government's space, suffers from a backlog of building maintenance, repairs, and alterations that are estimated at approximately \$5.7 billion. Looking at this growing problem from a government wide perspective, according to the [recent GSA] High-Risk Series report, this figure can be easily projected to be well over \$100 billion government-wide.

GSA's success in using the enhanced-use leasing authority provides an accurate assessment of the benefits available to the government. Mr. Perry cited DOD as an example, describing the agency's successful completion of 16 projects through the privatization of military housing and 58 pending projects that are either in the solicitation or planning stages. The Administrator also cited the Department of Veterans' Affairs, which has completed 27 enhanced-use leasing projects and a current GSA project, which makes use of the Public-Private Partnership vehicle created by special legislation. Reformed legislation should enhance existing authorities and result in several new authorities to include:

- Promoting the exchange/sale of real property where exchanges or transfer of property within the Federal Government could be made, or entering into agreements with non-Federal entities to exchange or sell property as a means of acquiring replacement property better suited for mission purposes.
- Allowing the sublease of vacant portions of government-leased property.
- Underutilized portions of non-excess, government-owned property could also be outleased to promote the full use and optimum performance of the property.
- Accessing recoverable equity in disposed of, underused, or obsolete Federal property and apply the proceeds toward meeting other on-going facilities needs.

Agencies should consider implementing measures to improve the management of real property. To review Stephen Perry's testimony, refer to the GSA website at [www.gsa.gov/Portal/home.jsp](http://www.gsa.gov/Portal/home.jsp) under Congressional Testimony.

## **Legislation**

*No new bills of interest to report.*

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## **SENATE**

### **Hearings**

*No new information of interest to report.*

### **Legislation**

*No new bills of interest to report.*

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### III. STATUS OF FY 2004 APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

(In Millions)

**HOUSE**

**SENATE**

<i>Jurisdiction/ FY 2004 Budget Request</i>	<i>302(b) Allocations / Approved Funding Level</i>	<i>Bill No.</i>	<i>Full Cmte.</i>	<i>Floor</i>	<i>Conf.</i>	<i>302(b) Allocations /Approved Funding Level (New)</i>	<i>Bill No.</i>	<i>Full Cmte.</i>	<i>Floor</i>	<i>Conf.</i>
<b>Agriculture</b> <b>17,141</b>	<b>17,005</b>	<b><i>H.R.</i></b> <b><i>_____</i></b>	6/25			<b>17,005</b>				
<b>Commerce</b> <b>37,685</b>	<b>37,914</b>					<b>37,014</b>				
<b>Defense</b> <b>371,698</b>	<b>368,662</b>	<b><i>H.R.</i></b> <b><i>_____</i></b>	6/26			<b>368,662</b>		<b><i>7/8 &amp; 7/10</i></b>		
<b>Energy and Water Development</b> <b>26,946</b>	<b>27,080</b>					<b>27,313</b>				
<b>Homeland Security</b> <b>27,481</b>	<b>28,521</b>	<b><i>H.R.</i></b> <b><i>2555</i></b>	6/12			<b>28,521</b>				
<b>Interior</b> <b>19,552</b>	<b>19,627</b>	<b><i>H.R.</i></b> <b><i>_____</i></b>	6/25			<b>19,627</b>		<b><i>7/9 &amp; 7/10</i></b>		
<b>Labor / HHS</b> <b>137,990</b>	<b>138,046</b>	<b><i>H.R.</i></b> <b><i>_____</i></b>	6/25			<b>137,601</b>	<b><i>S.</i></b> <b><i>1356</i></b>	6/26		
<b>Military Construction</b> <b>9,237</b>	<b>9,196</b>	<b><i>H.R.</i></b> <b><i>2559</i></b>	6/17			<b>9,196</b>	<b><i>S.</i></b> <b><i>1357</i></b>	6/26		
<b>Transportation and Treasury</b> <b>27,802</b>	<b>27,502</b>					<b>27,502</b>				
<b>VA/HUD</b> <b>89,434</b>	<b>90,034</b>					<b>90,034</b>				

***Red Italics*** = scheduled date

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## IV. NEW LEGISLATION

*(Note: Once a new bill is introduced, the Government Printing Office generally requires from several days to one week to make the bill available in print)*

See detailed provisions for all bills at: [thomas.loc.gov](http://thomas.loc.gov)

### HOUSE

*Since Congress was on recess last week, no new bills were introduced.*

### SENATE

*Since Congress was on recess last week, no new bills were introduced.*

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## V. ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES

***Office of Management and Budget Nomination*** On July 2, President Bush announced his intention to nominate Joel Kaplan as the new Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget. Mr. Kaplan currently serves as a Special Assistant to the President in the Office of the Chief of Staff.

***Abraham Promotes Smart Energy Use*** On July 1, Secretary Abraham toured the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado, and introduced a new web site for consumers. In his remarks, he encouraged Americans to use energy efficient technologies in their homes and businesses stating:

By incorporating advanced energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies that reduce energy use into building designs, the U.S. building sector is achieving significant results...Individuals can also play an important role in reducing energy usage. Conserving energy in the home saves consumer's money today while also helping ensure abundant energy supplies in the future.

For more information on the Department of Energy's new energy saver web site, visit [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov).

***OMB to Brief Appropriators about Federal Program Ratings*** Over the next few weeks, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) plans to conduct a series of briefings for members of Congress and their staff on the process used by the Administration to evaluate Federal programs. The process, PART (Program Assessment Rating Tool) is used by OMB to recommend program funding levels based on PART's performance evaluation results. By conducting the briefings, OMB hopes to demonstrate for legislators, the value to Congress of using the evaluation instrument during the budget-making process. Michael Stephens, a member of the Committee on Appropriations staff said that while the committee has yet to use the evaluation results for establishing program budgets, OMB should keep Congress apprised of the agency's evaluation results.

***National Park Service Maintenance Backlog*** Last week, the Secretary of the Department of Interior, Gale Norton, released a new report on the status of the maintenance backlog problem that has existed for years at the National Park Service. In releasing the report, she stated that the Administration plans to keep its commitment to reduce the current \$4.9 billion maintenance backlog. The Secretary revealed that since 2001, the agency has spent \$2.9 billion on improvements to Park visitor's centers, historic buildings, and outdated sewer systems. As a result, the Park Service has completed maintenance and backlog improvements for 900 projects over the last two years with approximately 500 new projects planned for this year. The agency's maintenance and backlog program is described in the report, *National Park Service: Partnering and Managing for Excellence*. To view the report, refer to the National Park Service's website at: [www.nps.gov/accompreport2003/pdf/npsdocu15web.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/accompreport2003/pdf/npsdocu15web.pdf).

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## VI. HEARINGS SCHEDULE

### HOUSE – COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

*No new hearings, mark ups or votes of interest to report.*

### HOUSE – AUTHORIZATIONS/OVERSIGHT

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/ Location
<b>July 10 –</b> Subcommittee on Energy (Committee on Science)  <b>(NEW)</b>	Judy Biggert (R/IL)	<b>Hearing</b> – To examine DOE's process for competing laboratory contracts and the impact on accountability and science programs at 28 facilities	Robert Card, Under Secretary of DOE  Robin Nazzaro, Director of Natural Resources and Environment at GAO  Paul Fleury, Dean of Engineering, Yale University	10:00 a.m. Room 2318 Rayburn Office Building
<b>July 12 –</b> Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources (Committee on Resources)  <b>(NEW)</b>	Barbara Cubin (R/WY)	<b>Field Hearing –</b> Energy Production on Federal Lands	Administration officials  Lance Cook, Wyoming State Geologist  Steve Degenfelder, Double Eagle Petroleum Industry  Jim Magagna, Rancher	9:30 a.m. Rawlins, Wyoming

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/ Location
			Jeff Strange, Halliburton Energy Services	
			Cynthia Lummis, Wyoming State Treasurer	
			Diemer True, True Oil Co.	

## SENATE – COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/ Location
<b>July 8 –</b> Subcommittee on Defense	Ted Stevens (R/AK)	<b>Mark Up – FY 2004</b> <i>Appropriations for the Department of Defense</i>	N/A	10 a.m., Room 192 Dirksen Office Building
<b>(NEW)</b>				
<b>July 9 –</b> Subcommittee on Interior	Ted Stevens (R/AK)	<b>Mark Up – FY 2004</b> <i>Appropriations for the Department of Interior and Related Agencies</i>	N/A	Time TBA Room 127 Dirksen Office Building
<b>(NEW)</b>				
<b>July 10 –</b> Committee on Appropriations	Ted Stevens (R/AK)	<b>Mark Up – FY 2004</b> <i>Appropriations for the Department of Defense</i>	N/A	Time TBA Room 128 Capitol
<b>(NEW)</b>				
<b>July 10 –</b> Committee on Appropriations	Ted Stevens (R/AK)	<b>Mark Up – FY 2004</b> <i>Appropriations for the Department of Interior and Related Agencies</i>	N/A	Time TBA Room 128 Capitol
<b>(NEW)</b>				

## SENATE – AUTHORIZATIONS/OVERSIGHT

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/ Location
<b>July 8 –</b>	Craig Thomas (R/	<b>Hearing – To examine</b> NPS's \$4.9 billion	Donald Murphy, National Park	10 a.m. Room 366



Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/ Location
Subcommittee on National Parks  (Committee on Energy and Natural Resources)	WY)	maintenance backlog , including the impact of new park unit designations, among non-related issues	Service  Barry Hill, General Accounting Office  Eric Dillinger, Carter and Burgess  Curtis Cornelssen, PriceWaterhouse Coopers  Tom Kiernan, National Parks Conservation Association	Dirksen Office Building
<b>July 10 –</b>  Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	Pete Domenici (R/NM)	<b>Hearing –</b> To examine the high price of natural gas, its effect on the economy, and to consider options for stabilizing the cost of natural gas	Alan Greenspan, Federal Reserve  David Garman, Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy  Brian Ferguson, Eastman Chemical  Richard Grant, Tractebel  Bruce Thompson, Forest Oil	10 a.m. Room 216 Hart Office Building

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE NEGOTIATIONS/FLOOR VOTES

Date and Action Item	Topic	Location
<i>Mid- to Late - July</i> (bill is put on hold to address other pressing legislative issues)	<i>Floor Consideration and Voting - S. 14 – Energy Policy Act of 2003</i> proposed amendments	U.S. Capitol

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